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THE COVID STATES PROJECT: A 50-STATE COVID-19 SURVEY REPORT #65: COVID-19 VACCINE ATTITUDES AMONG HEALTHCARE WORKERS

USA, October 2021

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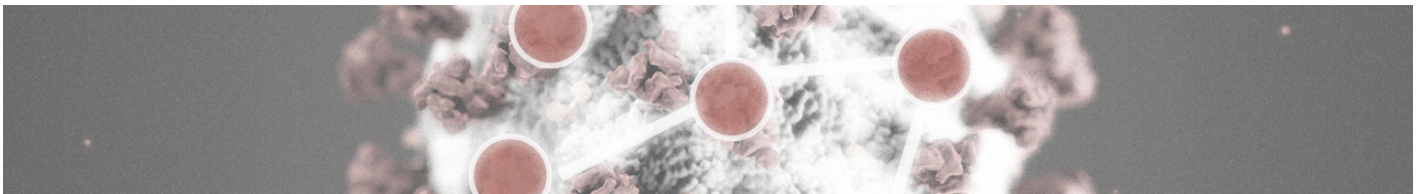
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Report of October 6, 2021, v.1

The COVID States Project

From: The COVID-19 Consortium for Understanding the Public's Policy Preferences Across States

A joint project of:

Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and Northwestern University

Authors: David Lazer (Northeastern University); Hong Qu (Northeastern University); Alexi Quintana (Northeastern University); Katherine Ognyanova (Rutgers University); Roy H. Perlis (Harvard Medical School); Matthew A. Baum (Harvard University); James Druckman (Northwestern University); Ata Uslu (Northeastern University); Jennifer Lin (Northwestern University); Mauricio Santillana (Harvard Medical School); Jon Green (Northeastern University); Matthew Simonson (Northeastern University); Evan Simon Myers (Northwestern University); Uday Tandon (Northwestern University); Alauna C. Safarpour (Harvard University); Kristin Lunz Trujillo (Northeastern University), and Caroline Pippert (Northwestern University)

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COVER MEMO

Summary Memo — October 6, 2021

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From April 2020 through September 2021, we conducted multiple waves of a large, 50-state survey, some results of which are presented here. You can find previous reports online at covidstates.org.

Note on methods:

Between August 26 and September 27, 2021, we surveyed 21,079 individuals across all 50 states plus the District of Columbia. The survey was conducted by PureSpectrum via an online, nonprobability sample, with state-level representative quotas for race/ethnicity, age, and gender (for methodological details on the other waves, see covidstates.org). In addition to balancing on these dimensions, we reweighted our data using demographic characteristics to match the U.S. population with respect to race/ethnicity, age, gender, education, and living in urban, suburban, or rural areas. This was the latest in a series of surveys we have been conducting since April 2020, examining attitudes and behaviors regarding COVID-19 in the United States.

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Or visit us at www.covidstates.org.

Covid-19 vaccine attitudes among healthcare workers

This report is an update to our [February](#), [March](#), and [August](#) reports on attitudes and vaccination rates of healthcare workers, including vaccine resistance, vaccine hesitancy.

These are measured as follows:

Vaccination status is based on self-reports that someone has already been vaccinated. Note that below we do not distinguish whether someone has received one or two doses of a vaccine, or which vaccine they have received.

Vaccine resistance is the proportion of individuals in a given category who indicate that they are "extremely unlikely" to get the vaccine if/when it is available to them.

Vaccine hesitancy is the proportion of individuals in a given category who indicate that they are "somewhat likely" or "neither likely nor unlikely" or "somewhat unlikely".

The vaccination rates of healthcare workers are of particular importance because they are more likely to be [conduits of exposure](#) for vulnerable individuals. Here we revisit our [earlier report](#) on the vaccination rates of healthcare workers between June and September. From June 2021 to September 2021, vaccination rates and attitudes¹ among healthcare workers² and non-healthcare workers change only slightly, where vaccination rates increase only modestly.

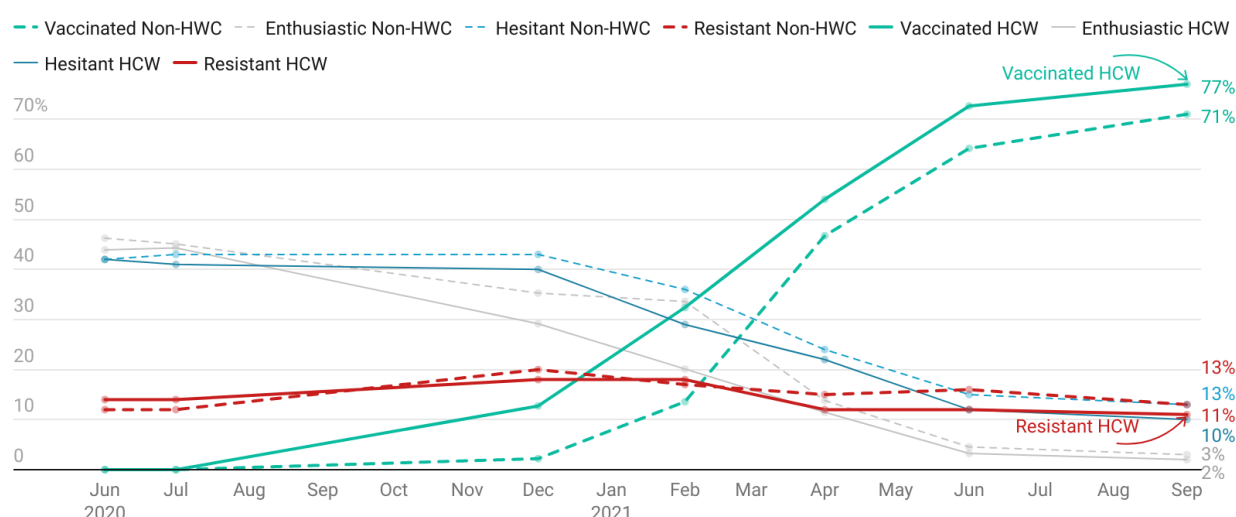
¹ Vaccine attitudes are based on survey participants' response to the question: "If a vaccine against COVID-19 was available to you, how likely would you be to get vaccinated?".

² Healthcare workers include respondents who answered "yes" to the question: "Do you currently have one of the following occupations? - Health or medical professional (e.g. nurse, medical doctor, paramedic)". We exclude other hospital staff, e.g. administrative, custodial, etc., that were included in the prior 50-state COVID-19 project reports. There are a total of 1,540 respondents who are healthcare workers in wave 19.

Healthcare workers vaccination rate increased from 73% to 77%. At the other extreme, those resistant to vaccines decreased from only one point from 12% to 11%. In the middle category, healthcare workers who are enthusiastic and hesitant decreased 2 and 1 points respectively. In summary, over this four month period, an additional 4% of healthcare workers got vaccinated. However, attitudes towards getting the vaccine among 23% unvaccinated healthcare workers remain mostly unchanged: enthusiastic (-1%), hesitant (-2%), and resistant (-1%).

Vaccination Likelihood among Healthcare Workers and Non-healthcare Workers

If a vaccine against COVID-19 was available to you, how likely would you be to get vaccinated?



Vaccinated/Enthusiastic = "Already vaccinated" or "Extremely likely"; Hesitant = "Somewhat likely" or "Neither likely nor unlikely" or "Somewhat unlikely"; Resistant = "Extremely unlikely"; N = 18,103 (5/16/2020-5/31/2020), N = 22,470 (6/12/2020-6/28/2020), N = 24,019 (11/03/2020-11/30/2020), N = 25,640 (12/16/2020-1/11/2021), N = 21,500 (02/05/2021-03/01/2021), N = 20,669 (06/09/2021-07/07/2021), N = 21,079 (08/26/2021-09/27/2021)
Margin of error: HWC = 3.5%; non-HWC = 1.1%

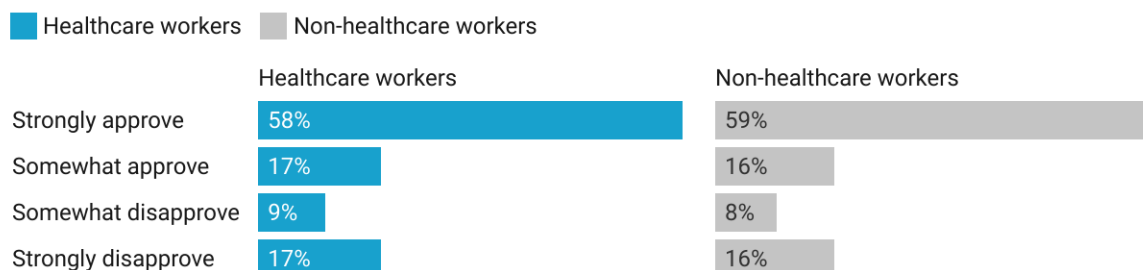
Chart: The Covid States Project • Source: The COVID-19 Consortium for Understanding the Public's Policy Preferences Across States (A joint project of Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and Northwestern University) www.covidstates.org • Created with Datawrapper

Figure 1.

In the most recent wave, we asked respondents whether they support vaccine mandates for medical professionals (e.g. doctors and nurses). Opinions among healthcare workers track very closely with those of non-healthcare workers. 75% of both groups either strongly approve or somewhat approve a vaccine mandate for medical professions. The remaining 25% disapprove, broken down to 9% somewhat disapprove and 17% strongly disapprove.

Support for Vaccine Mandate for Medical Professionals

Do you approve or disapprove of the following measures which federal, state, and local governments could take to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the next 30 days? - Requiring medical professionals (e.g. doctors and nurses) to get a COVID-19 vaccine



National sample, N = 21,079, Healthcare workers, N = 1,708, Time period: 08/26/2021-09/27/2021

Source: The COVID-19 Consortium for Understanding the Public's Policy Preferences Across States (A joint project of Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and Northwestern University) www.covidstates.org • Created with Datawrapper

Figure 2.³

SUMMARY:

In our previous reports on healthcare worker's vaccination rates and attitudes, we found that their behavior was a harbinger of trends in the general population. The historical data serves as evidence that because healthcare workers had priority access to vaccines their vaccination rates have been consistently higher compared to non-healthcare workers. These data suggest that nationally, vaccine mandates for healthcare workers have had, at most, a modest impact.

³ Combining healthcare workers and non-healthcare workers, the overall responses to this question were: Strongly approve 16.2%; Somewhat approve 8.4%; Somewhat disapprove 16.1%; Strongly disapprove 59.2%.

Appendix:

If a vaccine against COVID-19 was available to you, how likely would you be to get vaccinated?

Date	Vaccinated Non-HWC	Enthusiastic Non-HWC	Hesitant Non-HWC	Resistant Non-HWC	Vaccinated HCW	Enthusiastic HCW	Hesitant HCW	Resistant HCW
Jun, 2020	0	46	42	12	0	44	42	14
Jul, 2020	0	45	43	12	0	44	41	14
Dec, 2020	2	35	43	20	13	29	40	18
Feb, 2021	14	34	36	17	32	20	29	18
Apr, 2021	47	14	24	15	54	11	22	12
Jun, 2021	64	5	15	16	73	3	12	12
Sep, 2021	71	3	13	13	77	2	10	11

Vaccinated/Enthusiastic = "Already vaccinated" or "Extremely likely"; Hesitant = "Somewhat likely" or "Neither likely nor unlikely" or "Somewhat unlikely"; Resistant = "Extremely unlikely"; N = 18,103 (5/16/2020-5/31/2020), N = 22,470 (6/12/2020-6/28/2020), N = 24,019 (11/03/2020-11/30/2020), N = 25,640 (12/16/2020-1/11/2021), N = 21,500 (02/05/2021-03/01/2021), N = 20,669 (06/09/2021-07/07/2021), N = 21,079 (08/26/2021-09/27/2021)
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Table 1.